

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /093 W

-----077377 130957Z /12

R 120930Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1522

INFO AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

USICA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 2221

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PEPR, GB, DM

SUBJECT: BENIN SITUATITON

REF: LIBREVILLE 2195 AND PREVIOUS (NOTAL)

1. AFTER THREE DAYS OF SILENCE DURING WHICH BENINESE CAMP AT LYCEE D L'ESTUAIRE ALSO WAS QUIET, BENINESE SITUATION HIT FRONT PAGES OF LOCAL DAILY L'UNION MORNING AUG 12 IN FORM OF INTERVIEW WITH PRES. BONGO.

2. ACCORDING MEDIA, BONGO SAID GABON WOULD NOT BE ABLE

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RESPOND TO REQUEST FROM SEKOU TOURE TO SUSPEND EXPULSION OF BENINESE UNLESS KEREKOU MADE A "DIRECT AND CONCRETE DEMARCHE TO THIS EFFECT." TOURE MESSAGE ASKED BONGO TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT BENINESE PROBLEM BUT SINCE AFFAIR CONCERNS KEREKOU AND NOT TOURE, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR KEREKOU TO DECLARE HIS "SOLIDARITY" WITH MESSAGE. "SHOULD HE DO SO, WE COULD SAY TO HIM THAT GABON IS COUNTRY KNOWING HOW TO PARDON." MEANWHILE, "I (BONGO) DO NOT

APPRECIATE HEARING RADIO COTONOU SAY THAT PRES. BONGO HAS CAPITULATED

".

LACKING PROOF OF BENIN WILL, THEREFORE, IT IS TOO EARLY TO ACCORD
ANY SUSPENSION TO THOSE DEPARTING."

3. REMAINDER OF ARTICLE REPORTED THAT GUINEAN PRIMIN BEAVOGUI
HAD CALLED ON BONGO AGAIN AFTER BRIEF VISIT TO BRAZZAVILLE, AND
THAT PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT TO BENIN CAMP AUG 8 WAS TO DETERMINE
WHETHER ANY BENINESE WISHED REMAIN IN GABON WITHOUT PREJUDICE
TO ANY DECISIONS BONGO MAY TAKE LATER.

4. MEANWHILE, WE BELIEVE SOME BENINESE HAVE BEEN TRICKLING OUT
ON REGULARLY SCHEDULED FLIGHTS ALL WEEK, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE HEARD
REPORTS THAT AIR AFRIQUE HAS PUT ON EXTRA FLIGHTS. FONMIN BONGO'S
REQUEST FOR CHARTERS WENT AT LEAST TO FRANCE, UK AND SPAIN IN
ADDITION TO OURSELVES, AND FRENCH AMBASSADOR TOLD ME AUG 11,
THAT TWO SMALL FRENCH AIRLINES HAD RESPONDED FAVAORABLY. FRG
HAS TOLD GABONESE THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE HELP ON GOVERNMENT-TO-
GOVERNMENT BASIS APPARENTLY ESSENTIALLY FOR SAME REASONS WE DID,
BUT HAS UNDERTAKEN TO PASS ON GOG'S APPEAL TO GERMAN AIRLINES.
TIENKEN

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